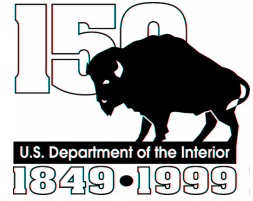


APPENDIX B

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Albuquerque Field Office
435 Montano Rd. N.E.
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87107-4935
www.nm.blm.gov



IN REPLY REFER TO:
9220 (010)

May 14, 1999

Instruction Memorandum NM-010-99-01

Expires: 9/30/2000

To: All Employees

From: Field Manager (010)

Subject: Noxious Weed Prevention Schedule for the Albuquerque Field Office

Noxious weeds are spreading nationally at 2300 acres/day on BLM lands. If cooperative weed management efforts are not dramatically increased approximately 19 million acres bureauwide will be infested with these invasive plants by the year 2000. The serious threat from noxious weeds warrants inclusion of noxious weeds as one of the mandatory items in BLM's National Environmental Policy Act Handbook, H-1790-1. Within the Albuquerque Field Office we have known populations of Russian knapweed, musk thistle, bull thistle, Canada thistle, Scotch thistle, whitetop, and Halogeton.

The Partners Against Weeds (PAWS) action plan for BLM (January 1996) established some general guidelines to be implemented to help prevent the introduction or spread of noxious weeds. These preventative measures should be applied to BLM actions such as range improvements, fire rehabilitation, and road maintenance, as well as BLM authorized actions including rights-of-way, oil and gas activities, grazing permits, and recreation permits.

The goals and strategies identified in PAWS will be implemented as needed for noxious weed management for the Albuquerque Field Office. A summary of portions of the PAWS action plan which need to be implemented immediately are as follows:

Goal 1—Prevention and Detection

The Field Office will delineate high priority areas for prevention of noxious weed infestation. Review and modify where necessary, all activities authorized or conducted on BLM land for their potential to spread weeds. This includes evaluating the potential for noxious weed invasion in the effects analysis of each NEPA document. Newly introduced weed species will be identified and documented.

Goal 2—Education and Awareness

The Field Office will conduct workshops for all field personnel to update their knowledge of noxious weeds, to include identification and the problems noxious weeds can cause. The Field Office will continue to work to establish county weed associations in developing and implementing outreach plans.

Goal 3—Inventory

The Field Office will monitor all known populations of noxious weeds and update the inventory as needed on a yearly basis.

Goal 4—Planning

Include provisions for noxious weed management in all BLM-funded or authorized actions. See Weed Prevention Schedule and Appendix 4 (attached) from the PAWS for specific actions to be considered.

Goal 5—Integrated Weed Management (IWM)

The Field office will determine the best management options using a combination of the four general categories identified for weed management Cultural, Physical Control, Biological Control or Herbicides. See appendix 5 (attached) from PAWS for specific guidelines.

Goal 6—Coordination

The Field Office will continue and expand cooperation with other federal agencies, state and county governments, organizations and private landowners in the fight against weeds.

Goal 7—Monitoring, Evaluation, Research and Technology Transfer

The Field Office will continue to work with the Cooperative Extension Service and others on research for control methods for Noxious Weeds. Monitoring programs will be established to determine if we are meeting our management objectives with our weed management programs.

Signed by:

Edwin J. Singleton
Field Manager

Authenticated by:

Jeanne Holtby
Staff Asst.

1 Attachment:

1—AFO Weed Prevention Schedule (3 pp)

ALBUQUERQUE FIELD OFFICE WEED PREVENTION SCHEDULE

| PREVENTION ACTIVITY | WHEN | STAFF |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|----------------------------------------------------|
| Require that all road construction and maintenance equipment be free of mud, dirt and plant parts before moving from infested areas. Gravel and fill pits should be inspected to ensure they are weed free. | All Year | Lands and Minerals & Engineering Teams |
| Re-establish vegetation on all areas of soil disturbance. Proper dates and the seeding mix to be used will be provided by the Albuquerque Field Office. Only certified weed free seed and mulch will be used in the re-establishment of vegetation. All reseeded sites should be monitored and permit holder notified if spot reseeding is required. | All Year | Lands and Minerals & Watershed & Engineering Teams |
| All Range, Watershed, and Wildlife Projects and all Land Use Permits should include a stipulation requiring monitoring for and treatment of noxious weed infestations that occur after a permit is issued. Method of treatment for any infestations must be approved by the Albuquerque Field Office. | All Year | Lands and Minerals & Watershed Teams |
| Environmental analysis for all Range, Watershed, Wildlife, and Recreation Projects and all Land Use Permits will include weed-risk considerations. | All Year | Lands and Minerals & Watershed Teams & Recreation |
| Require that supplemental feed be certified weed free. Any permit allowing livestock on the site should have a stipulation that weed free feed be used. Require that all pack and saddle stock in Wilderness Study Areas, Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, Recreation Areas or sensitive areas use only certified weed free feed. Encourage the use of weed free feed in all areas. | All Year | Lands and Minerals & Watershed Teams & Recreation |
| All Special Recreation Use Permits should include a stipulation requiring on-site weed control and minimization of spread to other areas. Method of treatment for any infestations must be approved by the Albuquerque Field Office. | All Year | Recreation |
| Sign trailheads of pack and saddle stock trails for weed awareness and weed prevention techniques. | All Year | Recreation |
| In allotments with infestations and weed free areas, control timing of animal movement to prevent movement from infested sites to noninfested after seed set. Avoid grazing any vegetative treatment site (brush control, sagebrush shaving, reseeded sites or prescribed burn sites) until vegetation is well established. | All Year | Watershed Team |
| Include weed prevention and treatment in all mining plans of operation and reclamation plans. Retain bonds for weed control until the site is | All Year | Lands and Minerals Team |

| PREVENTION ACTIVITY | WHEN | STAFF |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|----------------------------------------------------|
| returned to vegetative conditions matching the surrounding area. Method of treatment for any infestations must be approved by the Albuquerque Field Office. | | |
| Require that all archaeological site excavations greater than 1/4 acre be reclaimed. Dates of seeding and seed mix to be used will be provided by the Albuquerque Field Office. Seed must be certified weed free. | All Year | Cultural Team |
| Will establish weed management areas and work to expand the cooperation with other federal agencies, state and county governments, organizations and private landowners in the fight against weeds. | All Year | Watershed Team & Weed Coordinator |
| Distribute public information/ brochures. Weed identification training for field going employees and managers. Participate in state and local workshops that deal with noxious weed management. | All Year | Watershed Team & Weed Coordinator & Public Affairs |

NOXIOUS WEED STIPULATIONS FOR ALL PERMITS, EA's, & EIS's

Noxious weed control Standard Operating Procedures found in Instruction Memorandum NM-010-99-01 (Weed Prevention Schedule for Albuquerque Field Office) will be followed.

- Ensure equipment involved in land disturbing actions, be clean of noxious weed seeds or propagative parts prior to entry on site. When working in areas with noxious weeds equipment should be cleaned prior to moving off site.
- Survey and inventory proposed work areas for noxious weeds; take reasonable measures to avoid spread of noxious weeds found (i.e., - cleaning equipment with pressure washers, stockpiling overburden material for later treatment, avoiding driving through weed patches). The following noxious weeds have been identified as occurring on lands within the boundaries of the Albuquerque Field Office (AFO).

- 1) Russian knapweed (*Centaurea repens*)
- 2) musk thistle (*Carduus nutans*)
- 3) bull thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*)
- 4) Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*)
- 5) Scotch thistle (*Onopordum acanthium*)
- 6) hoary cress (*Cardaria draba*)
- 7) perennial pepperweed (*Lepidium latifolium*)
- 8) Halogeton (*Halogeton glomeratus*)
- 9) spotted knapweed (*Centaurea maculosa*)
- 10) dalmation toadflax (*Linaria genistifolia*)
- 11) yellow toadflax (*Linaria vulgaris*)
- 12) camelthorn (*Alhagi pseudalhagi*)
- 13) yellow starthistle (*Centaurea solstitialis*)
- 14) saltcedar (*Tamarix spp.*)

15) diffuse knapweed (*Centaurea diffusa*)

- Use only certified weed free erosion control and re-vegetation materials (eg. mulch, seed, natural fiber mats).
- If fill dirt or gravel will be required, the source needs to be noxious weed free.
- The site should be monitored for the life of the project for the presence of noxious weeds (includes maintenance & construction activities). If weeds are found the AFO will be notified and the AFO will determine the best method for the control of the particular weed species.
- Reclamation and revegetation of the work site will use species specified by the AFO. All seed shall be certified weed free. The area will be monitored to determine the success of the revegetation, and revegetation will continue until successful.